SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments submitted above are supported by the specification. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 62-71, 73-84 and 86-88 are pending.

A reagent for selective quantitative determination of HDL cholesterol comprising as a mixture:

a compound selected from the group consisting of saponins, polyenes, cholesterol derivatives, phospholipid derivatives, bacitracin, polymyxin, suzukacillin and gramicidin;

a surfactant selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene (10) octyl phenyl ether, polyoxyethylene alkylene phenyl ether, polyoxyethylene tribenzyl phenyl ether, heptane sulfonic acid and octane sulfonic acid; and

an enzymatic reagent for determining cholesterol selected from the group consisting of (1) cholesterol esterase and cholesterol oxidase and (2) cholesterol esterase and cholesterol dehydrogenase,

where the polyenes are selected from the group consisting of nystatin, fillipin, pimacillyn, pentamycin, trichomycin, fungichromin, perimycin, amphotericin, etoluscomycin, primycin, and candigin.

See Claim 62.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kerscher et al. in view of Hino et al. and Kishi et al. in light of Hirai et al. is respectfully traversed. The cited references fail to suggest the claimed reagent.

As the Examiner recognizes, Kerscher et al. fail to disclose the use of digitonin. See page 4 of the Office Action. The Inventors of the present application have discovered that the claimed reagent can quantitatively determine HDL cholesterol selectively amoung lipoproteins. If digitonin is not added, cholesterols other than HDL cholesterol may react with the enzyme, such that selective quantitative determination of HDL cholesterol is not possible. This is shown in Table 1 at page 15 of the specification.

Kishi et al. disclose stabilizing cholesterol dehydrogenase (CDH), in a procedure where digitonin is employed. However, there is no suggestion in this reference that the addition of digitonin, HDL cholesterol amoung lipoproteins would ***selectively*** react with enzyme.

In view of the foregoing, since Kerscher et al. only mentions a reagent without any suggestion for adding digitonin and Kishi et al. only suggest stabilizing CDH with digitonin, the cited references fail to suggest the selective quantitative determination of HDL cholesterol directly from blood serum with digitonin as claimed is not obvious from the references cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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